

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs starting on page 5, line 5, and ending on page 5, line 22 with the following:

It can be seen that the recess 29 formed by the concave edges or cutting edge lines 26 will receive crop material between the respective edge and the adjacent guard point or finger 23 on 25, and will greatly increase the capacity of the sickle knife section relative to the normal tapered section where a straight line tapered edge is used. A straight line tapered edge is indicated in dotted lines at 34 in Figures ~~31 and 2~~ at one of the sickle sections. The straight lateral side edges 30 of the base 19 extend a distance from a base line 35 of the base 19 between 40% and 50%~~about one half~~ of the distance from base line 35 to the leading end 28.

The curved shape of each edge 26 is designed to increase the capacity of the sickle for cutting crop materials when used with sickle guards. Crop materials are small diameter stalks and large bunches are gathered and severed with each stroke of the sickle. In figure 4, a straight line 26A between the first and second ends of a cutting edge 26 is shown. Also, a line 26B is shown to indicate the depth of the concavity of cutting line 26.

As shown in the drawings the straight line 26A is 1.75 inches and line 26B is .25 inches, or in other words the concave distance is in the range of 14% of the straight line the actual distance can vary, but the proportion should be the same.